

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5272

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1214

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, PINT, EGEN, ZA, UR, XJ, US, AO, CG, RH

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S PRESS CONFERENCE - MARCH 25

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT KAUNDA TODAY HELD A 90-MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE
AT STATE HOUSE IN LUSAKA ATTENDED BY APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED
FOREIGN AND LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND BY MANY RANKING ZAMBIAN
OFFICIALS. THE PRESS CONFERENCE COVERED BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC
ISSUES, BUT WITH MOST QUESTIONS CENTERED ON FOREIGN POLICY
MATTERS. AMONG THOSE COVERED WERE RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA AND
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ZAIRE (HE CALLED FOR RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE TWO); HIS
APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS; CASTRO
VISIT (PRESIDENT HAD BEEN INFORMED HE WAS COMING BUT NOT WHEN);
ZAMBIA'S IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE USSR; SOCIALIST COUNTRIES'
SUPPORT FOR THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AS
CONTRASTED WITH WEST'S SUPPORT FOR "RACIST" REGIMES (HE HIT
HARD AT VIOLATIONS OF OIL SANCTIONS); AND HIS ASSESSMENT OF

PATRIOTIC FRONT AND MUZOREWA. END SUMMARY

THE FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS COVERED BY THE PRESIDENT.

1. ZAIRE/ANGOLA RELATIONS

ON THE PRESENT STATE OF ZAMBIA/ANGOLA RELATIONS AND HIS VIEW ON THE PRESENT CRISIS BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA, PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID THAT INSOFAR AS THE ANGOLAN/ZAIRE PROBLEM IS CONCERNED, IT IS HIS HOPE THAT THESE "TWO SISTER REPUBLICS CAN SIT DOWN TOGETHER IN KEEPING WITH THE AFRICAN WAY AND DISCUSS THEIR PROBLEMS." HE SAID HE SEES NO REASON WHY THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA COULD NOT BE RESOLVED AND ADDED THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THIS IS HOW ALL OF AFRICA VIEWS THE SITUATION. ON ANGOLA/ZAMBIA RELATIONS HE SAID THESE HAVE LONG BEEN NORMALIZED AND THAT DELEGATIONS BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS NOT NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. HE ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL SOON NAME THE FIRST ZAMBIAN AMBASSADOR TO LUANDA.

2. HUMAN RIGHTS

WHEN ASKED HIS OPINION OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S "UNORTHODOX" APPROACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES, PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID THAT HE "DISAGREED THAT IT IS AN UNORTHODOX APPROACH" AND SAID THAT IT IS "THE RIGHT APPROACH." HE SAID THAT HE AGREED THAT PEOPLE ARE LOOKING AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS IN "A RATHER LOW PRIORITY MANNER," BUT ADDED THAT AS FAR AS "WE ARE CONCERNED HERE, I HOPE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WILL CONTINUE WITH THAT PROGRAM TO HELP US HELP OURSELVES TO UNCLASSIFIED

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GET OUT OF THIS PRISON OF RACISM IN WHICH COLONIALISM AND FASISM ARE THE ORDER OF THE DAY IN RHODESIA, NAMIBIA, AND SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF".

3. CASTRO VISIT

WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF CUBAN PRIME MINISTER CASTRO PRESIDENT KAUNDA CONFINED HIS REMARKS TO SAYING THAT ZAMBIA WAS "INFORMED OFFICIALLY HE WAS COMING, AND WE ARE WAITING."

4. ZAMBIA/USSR RELATIONS

ASKED BY THE NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE HOW HE VIEWED USSR-ZAMBIA RELATIONS DURING THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD SINCE HE VISITED MOSCOW IN LATE 1974, PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES "HAVE CERTAINLY IMPROVED A GREAT DEAL. ABOUT THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT, BUT THAT IS NOT TO SAY THEY CANNOT IMPROVE MORE. BOTH SIDES MUST WORK HARD TO IMPROVE RELATIONS." WHEN ASKED BY THE NOVOSTI REPRESENTATIVE AS TO USSR-ZAMBIAN RELATIONS VIS-A-VIS THE WAR OF NATIONAL LIBERATION IN SOUTHERN

AFRICA, PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID "ZAMBIA CONSIDERS THE SOVIET UNION AND MANY OTHER OSCIALIST COUNTRIES AS ALLIES IN THE STRUGGLE," ADDING THAT, ALTHOUGH WESTERN COUNTRIES HAVE GIVEN ASSISTANCE TO THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE, THEY HAVE NOT PROVIDED MILITARY ASSISTANCE. PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID AFRICA AND THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES "ARE COLLEAGUES AND COMRADES IN THE STRUGGLE, AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE UNTIL THE OBJECTIVES OF LIBERATION ARE ACCOMPLISHED."

5. THE WEST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

QUESTIONED AS TO THE VALUE IN CONTINUED EFFORTS BY THE WEST TO ATTEMPT WORKING FOR A SOLUTION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IN VIEW OF PAST FAILURES TO RESOLVE THE RHODESIAN SITUATION, KAUNDA SAID THAT HE "WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT THESE WESTERN EFFORTS ARE WELL-MEANING" BUT THAT HE HIMSELF DOES NOT BELIEVE SMITH AND SOUTH AFRICA COULD CONTINUE IF THE WEST DECIDED THAT COLONIALISM IN RHODESIA SHOULD END, THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S HOLD ON NAMIBIA SHOULD END, AND THAT APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD END."

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HE SAID WESTERN OIL CONTINUES "TO FEED SMITH'S WAR MACHINE." AND RHETORICALLY ASKED "WHY WESTERN POWERS ARE UNABLE TO CONTROL THE FLOW OF OIL" HE TERMED THE SITUATION "IMPOSSIBLE" AND SAID "WE HAVE NO CHOICE IN THE MATTER BUT TO FIGHT," ADDING THAT RHODESIA HAS "NOT ONLY THE BLESSING, BUT THE ACTUAL PRACTICAL SUPPORT OF WESTERN POWERS." PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID THAT AT ONE CONFERENCE AFTER ANOTHER "THE WINNER WAS SMITH UNTIL WE BECAME

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SERIOUS ABOUT LIBERATION WAR IN ZAIMBABWE." SINCE 1966 HE SAID HE HAS WARNED WESTERN COUNTRIES THAT THERE WOULD BE "A RACIAL CONFLAGATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA COMPOUNDED BY IDEOLOGICAL CONFRONTATION." HE NOTED THAT HE WENT TO WASHINGTON, "HAD TO BREAK THE ETIGUETTE OF THE WHITE HOUSE, SPOKE STRONGLY WHILE THERE, BUT NOTHING HAPPENED UNTIL THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA MADE THEM WAKE UP." AFTER HAVING SOUGHT CHANGE BY PEACEFUL MEANS AND HAVING FAILED AT EVERY TURN, PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID "WE ARE SAYING NO MORE TALKING, WE FIGHT*" ALTHOUGH PEACEFUL MEANS HAVE FAILED, HE SAID THAT WE (IMPLYING AFRICA) ARE STILL SUPPORTING THE LUSAKA MANIFESTO WHICH "SAYS WE MUST TALK TO ACHIEVE PEACE BUT WHEN UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT FAILS, FIGHT." NOW, ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT, THE SITUATION IS ONE OF FIGHTING AND "OUR ALLIES ARE THOSE WHO RECOGNIZE THE NEED OF FEEDING US WITH ARMS." HE SAID HE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT THE WEST "WANTS US TO DO," BUT, IF THE WEST CAN MAKE "MEANINGFUL PROPOSALS," THEN HE HOPES SUCH PROPOSALS CAN BE BASED ON PEACE AND JUSTICE IN A FUTURE ZIMBABWE SINCE "WE DON'T WANT TO BE TRICKED BY SMITH AGAIN." HE THEN SAID "IF THEY HAVE MEANINGFUL PROPOSALS, LET THEM BRING THEM OUT. WE WILL THINK ABOUT THEM, WE WILL BRING THEM TO OUR BOSSES AT THE OAU."

LATER IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE, WHEN ASKED IF HE DID NOT SEE A PROBLEM IN DEALING WITH THE WEST IN VIEW OF ITS VACILLATING POLICIES, PRESIDENT KAUNDA AGAIN CALLED ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT ZAMBIA IS A NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY THAT VALUES THE FRIENDSHIP OF ALL COUNTRIES THAT ARE TRYING TO IMPORVE THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. HE SAID HE BELIEVES THE WEST CANNOT FIGHT WITH AFRICA TO ELIMINATE SMITH AND THAT IT MIGHT IN THE END BE FIGHTING AGAINST AFRICA. HE RECALLED A CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ZAMBIA ROBERT GOOD IN 1966 IN WHICH HE SAID "YOUR PEOPLE ARE GOING TO JOIN HANDS WITH THE RACISTS AND FIGHT US AND WE ARE GOING TO GET ARMS FROM THE EASTERN COUNTRIES." AMBASSADOR GOOD SAID THAT WOULD NOT HAPPEN "BUT

NOW IT IS HAPPENING." HE SAID SMITH HAS NO CAPABILITY OF MANUFACTURING ARMS BUT THAT HE IS ABLE TO GET THEM FROM THE WEST. AT THIS POINT, THE PRESIDENT AGAIN SAID THAT HE WELCOMES PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS "FOR IF MANKIND MUST HAVE AN OBSESSION OF ANY KIND IT MUST BE IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS." RETURNING THEN TO THE QUESTION OF THE ARMED STRUGGLE HE SAID "THE ONLY PEOPLE ABLE TO GIVE WEAPONS TO FIGHT ARE THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES."

6. THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND LIBERATION MOVEMENT LEADERS REPLYING TO CHARGES THAT ZAMBIA HAS SHOWN PARTIALITY TOWARD THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID THIS IS NOT THE CASE AND THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT "WAS RECOGNIZED BY THE FRONTLINE STATES ON THE BASIS OF PRINCIPLE AFTER DEFEATS AT EVERY NEGOTIATION UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH SMITH." WHEN THE FRONTLINE STATES DECIDED THAT "THE RIGHT THING TO DO WAS TO FIGHT." SINCE THE FIGHTING FORCES ARE UNDER THE PATRIOTIC FRONT THIS WAS A LOGICAL MOVE, SAID THE PRESIDENT. HE SAID HE CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY BISHOP MUZOREWA AND REV. SITHOLE ARE INTERESTED IN A REFERENDUM TO DECIDE WHO SHOULD BE THE FUTURE PRIME MINISTER AND TERMED SUCH THINKING AS "PUTTING THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE". HE SAID THAT THE SITUATION IS NOW ONE "OF FIGHT FIRST, TALK NEXT, INDEPENDENCE ESTABLISHED ON THE BASIS OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE." WHEN INDEPENDENCE IS GUARANTEED "WE WILL THEN SAY GO AHEAD AND SELECT YOUR OWN LEADERS." HE SAID THIS IS THE PART OF THE "BRITISH WAY OF DOING THINGS" AND HE SAW NO REASON WHY IT SHOULD NOT BE SO IN RHODESIA. CRITICIZING THE WESTERN PRESS FOR WRITING ABOUT THE POPULARITY OF THE VARIOUS ASPIRANTS FOR THE ZIMBABWE PRIME MINISTERSHIP, HE SAID "WHO IS TALKING ABOUT POPULARITY? WE ARE TALKING ABOUT INDEPENDENCE*" HZ SAID MUZOREWA CAN HOLD MEETINGS INSIDE RHODESIA ONLY BECAUSE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IS FIGHTING, ADDING THAT HE HOPED THE BISHOP WOULD CONTINUE TO FIGHT UNTIL INDEPENDENCE IS GAINED AND ADVISES HIM TO "BE PATIENT, GET RID OF SMITH FIRST." LOW

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TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, PINT, EGEN, ZA, UR, XJ, US, AO, CG, RH, (KAUNDA, KENNETH DAVID)
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